

# State Of South Dakota

## Office Of The Governor

April 10, 1983, was a cool 56 degrees, and the Big Sioux River was running high, cold and fast from the spring runoff--a good day for an exciting canoe trip. That's what Jack Bryan and his family were anticipating, but that canoe trip almost ended in tragedy when they got sideways in the current, hit a log, and overturned. Jack got his wife and three-year-old son ashore, but Jack's brother, Hodge, unable to swim, was left clinging to the canoe and calling for help as it drifted down the river.

Robert DeWit and three friends responded to Hodge's cries. As one of the other boys swam out to the canoe, Robert and the other two boys formed a human chain into the river to help pull them out when they got close to shore.

After everyone was out of the water, Robert and the other boys applied first-aid to the Bryan family by treating them for shock and hypothermia while waiting for the ambulance to arrive.

Under the circumstances of that cool April day, the teamwork of Robert and his friends and their quick thinking in administering correct first-aid techniques were vital in saving Hodge Bryan's life and in preventing any serious illness or injury to the Bryan family.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, WILLIAM J. JANKLOW, Governor of the State of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim the valor of

ROBERT DEWIT

and I join his family and friends in congratulating him for responding to a life or death situation with intelligence and life-saving skill.



ATTEST:

*Alice Kundert*  
ALICE KUNDERT, SECRETARY OF STATE

BY *Jay D. Vogt*  
JAY D. VOGT, DEPUTY

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Third Day of September, in the Year of Our Lord, Nineteen Hundred and Eighty-Three

*William J. Janklow*  
WILLIAM J. JANKLOW, GOVERNOR

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA - BUREAU OF ADMINISTRATION - OFFICE OF RECORDS MANAGEMENT - CERTIFICATE OF AUTHENTICITY  
THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT THE MICROPHOTOGRAPHIC IMAGE APPEARING ON THIS SLIDE OF MICROFILM IS AN ACCURATE REPRODUCTION OF THE ORIGINAL RECORD AND WAS MICROFILMED IN THE REGULAR COURSE OF BUSINESS ACCORDING TO THE PROVISIONS OF SOUTH DAKOTA COMPILED LAW 1-27-4. IT IS FURTHER CERTIFIED THAT THE PHOTOGRAPHIC PROCESS USED FOR MICROFILMING OF THE ABOVE RECORDS WAS IN A MANNER AND ON MICROFILM WHICH MEET THE RECOMMENDED REQUIREMENTS OF THE NATIONAL BUREAU OF STANDARDS FOR PERMANENT MICROPHOTOGRAPHIC REPRODUCTIONS.  
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